

JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT Guided Backcountry Skiing Environmental Assessment

May 2004

Teton County, Wyoming

Proposed Action:	Jackson Hole Mountain Resort	Responsible Official:	Nancy Hall,
Location:	Jackson Ranger District		District Ranger
	Bridger-Teton National Forest		Bridger-Teton National Forest
	Teton County, Wyoming		Teton County, Wyoming
Lead Agency:	USDA Forest Service	Further Information:	Ray Spencer, ID Team Leader
	Jackson Ranger District		Jackson Ranger District
	Bridger-Teton National Forest		PO Box 1689
	Teton County, Wyoming		Jackson, WY 83001
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Abstract: This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to document a proposal to issue Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR) a new Outfitter and Guide Special Use Permit (OG SUP) in order to continue to offer guided backcountry skiing. JHMR is located on the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Teton County, Wyoming and operates in accordance with the terms and conditions of a SUP for guided backcountry skiing issued by the US Forest Service, which will expire December 31, 2004. The current SUP authorizes a total of 300 service days to JHMR for guided backcountry skiing to be used in the Rock Springs-Jensen Canyon area with no more than 50 of the 300 service days to be used on Teton Pass. The Proposed Action includes the issuance of the new five-year OG SUP to provide safe, guided backcountry skiing in both portions of its current OG SUP area. JHMR has proposed that a total of 900 service days be authorized under the new SUP, maintaining the condition that no more than 50 of the service days may be used on Teton Pass. The boundary within the Rock Springs-Jensen Canyon portion of the OG SUP is not proposed to change; however, the Teton Pass boundary is proposed to be modified to reflect guest preferences and operational realities. The duration of the new OG SUP would be five years. This EA discusses the purpose and need for the Proposed Action; alternatives to the Proposed Action; potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of implementing each alternative; and mitigation measures. In addition to the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action, a third action alternative was considered in the EA.

Following review of public and agency comments on this EA, the District Ranger will make a final determination as to which alternative best serves the public interest on National Forest System lands. The Selected Alternative can be a modification of alternatives presented.

Important Notice: Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review period for this EA in preface to the issuance of a decision. This will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to the comments at one time, and to use this acquired information in the preparation of the Decision Notice, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision-making process. Comments on the EA should be specific and should address the adequacy of the EA and the merits of the alternatives discussed (36 CFR 215.14). Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this project and will be subject to review pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

Comment Period: The comment period for the EA will extend 30 calendar days from the date on which the Legal Notice is published in the paper of record, the Casper Star Tribune, and public notice of availability is given in newspapers of local distribution. Please send comments to Ray Spencer, ID Team Leader at the aforementioned address for the Jackson Ranger District.